MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, APRIL 23, 1934

The tenth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1934 was held in its office in the Navy Department Building on Monday, April 23, 1934. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Swartwout,
Mr. Clarke,
Mr. Howells,
Mr. Lawrie,
Mr. Coolidge,
and Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held March 9, 1934, were approved with the following amendments:

Page 4, paragraph 3: Instead of heading, "Ornamental Sculpture", change to "Ornamental Models, Department of Justice Building." The next to the last line, page 4, will also be changed accordingly.

On page 10, paragraph 7, amend paragraph on Washington Monument to include accompanying Exhibit D-2. This refers to the visit of the Commission of Fine Arts to the Washington Monument and gives comments made by the architect members of the Commission at the Monument.

2. RESOLUTION AS TO CERTIFICATION OF VOUCHERS: The Chairman stated that pursuant to Executive Order creating a central disbursing office in the Treasury Department, checks will hereafter be issued by the Treasury Department although the vouchers will have to be made up by Mr. Caemmerer as heretofore. Mr. Moore said that he had notified the Treasury Department that Mr. Caemmerer would certify to the vouchers but it is desirable as a matter of record that this be confirmed by the Commission. Therefore, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

April 23, 1934.

The action of the Chairman directing that H. P. Caemmerer, Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts, certify to all vouchers of the Commission of Fine Arts, effective April 1, 1934, is hereby confirmed.

3. MODEL FOR PEDIMENT OF THE ARCHIVES BUILDING: Under date of April 17, 1934, the following letter was received from Mr. Louis Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department:

Sir:

There is transmitted herewith a photograph of a model by Mr. A. A. Weinman showing the Pennsylvania Avenue pediment of the new Archives Building in Washington, D. C.

This photograph is submitted for comment and advice of the Commission.

Respectfully,
(Signed) Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect.

The photograph was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Lawrie, who on inspecting it considered it a very good model and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it. (Exhibit A)

Mr. Lawrie seemed to think that the fruit carried by the rider on horseback at the left of the central figure was somewhat out of place and he said he would talk with Mr. Weinman about the matter.

4. STATUE OF GEORGE ROGERS CLARK FOR MEMORIAL AT VINCENNES, INDIANA: Under date of April 17, 1934, the following letter was received from Mr. C. B. Coleman, Executive Secretary of the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission:

April 24, 1934.

Honorable Charles Moore, Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, I submit for the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts the statue of George Rogers Clark to be made by Hermon A. MacNeil, 121-01 Fifth Avenue, College Point, Long Island, New York, to be installed at the center of the memorial building at Vincennes. Mr. MacNeil has sent you a photograph of the model, which has the approval of Fred C. Hirons, 40 East 49th St., New York City, architect for the memorial building, and of the Sesquicentennial Commission.

Hoping for early and favorable action, I remain,

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Christopher B. Coleman,
Executive Secretary.

The photograph of the model received from Mr. MacNeil was called to the particular attention of Mr. Lawrie, who had the following criticism to make regarding the model: "It is a good figure, well done and I think demands approval. Still I am disappointed it does not remind me of daring and shrewdness nor of the romance of the early West, but since that is well brought out in Mr. Winter's pictures it may be that this statue should be as it is". The other members of the Commission likewise felt that Mr. MacNeil had made Clark appear too much like a man in fine clothes and wondered why the sculptor had done this unless it was because George Rogers Clark was a "Virginia gentleman"; it was not the way to represent a frontiersman. However, the Commission felt that so far as execution was concerned it was a good model and, therefore, approved it. (Exhibit B)

Mr. Lawrie stated that Mr. ~~Rifka~~ Jo Angel, sculptor, has made a sketch for the statue of Vigo, the French trader of Vincennes, and that on his suggestion Mr. Angel has made a revised sketch making him look considerably more like a trader. Mr. Polasek, sculptor, of Chicago, is making a model of the statue of Gibault, the French priest.

5. WHITE HOUSE OFFICES: The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission a newspaper report of Sunday, April 22, 1934, concerning a proposed plan to enlarge the executive office of the President by building out in the White House grounds. Mr. Moore said recently Mr. Frederick A. Delano, Uncle of the President and Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, brought some sketches for the enlargement of the executive office, stating that 31,000 square feet additional is very much needed by the President, for which an allowance of $300,000 is to be made. The President receives on an average 5,000 letters a day and there are more than a 100 clerks crowded in the executive office.

The Commission considered the suggestion to enlarge the executive office building. In their opinion it would be only a temporary proposition just as the executive office building, which was built west of the White House in the days of Theodore Roosevelt, was a temporary proposition. Also the Commission felt that no more space in the White House grounds should be taken up for building purposes. The Commission again strongly recommended that the State, War and Navy Department Building be remodeled as an executive office building. Plans for the building were completed two years ago by Mr. Waddy Wood, who made plans for remodeling the State, War and Navy Building so as to make it look like the Treasury Department Building but Congress held in abeyance the appropriation of $3,000,000 needed to carry out the work. It was noted from the newspaper report that two rooms in the State, War and Navy Building are now being used for executive offices. It was suggested that the War Department offices, which occupy about 120,000 square feet should be removed to the Munitions Building and that files which occupy thousands of square feet of

space should be placed in the storage room to be transferred later to the Archives Building when it is completed in the course of the year.

(On May 1, 1934, Lieut. Locke, U. S. A. Corps of Engineers, stationed at the White House, called on Mr. Moore, stating that the President had directed that the sketches made for enlarging the White House offices be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice. It was also stated that arrangements could not be made to move the Secretary of War out of the State, War and Navy Building and that the existing White House Office must be enlarged by next Fall to provide proper office space for the employees of the executive office. The plans call for extending the existing office building southward and using part of the grounds and it was thought that using some additional space here would not materially affect the appearance of the White House grounds.)

6. GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD STATUE: Mr. Moore informed the Commission that a report has been received from the Surveyor of the District of Columbia, stating that the dedication plats for land procured from the American University and from Mr. Glover to create a circle at the intersection of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues for the statue of General Artemas Ward, have been accepted on the part of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. (Exhibit C)

Mr. Moore said it is necessary in his opinion to make a real design for the circle. The present design called for an oval on the axis of Massachusetts Avenue whereas Nebraska Avenue is just as important. This matter was brought to the attention of Mr. Clarke. Mr. Clarke said that yesterday during an inspection of the parks of the District of Columbia in company with Mr. Moore,

Mr. Caemmerer, and several representatives of the National Capital Parks office, an inspection was made of the proposed location and it was agreed that a new design should be made providing for a circle 240 feet in diameter in the center of which should be placed the statue of General Artemas Ward.

7. NEBRASKA WORLD WAR MEMORIAL: Mr. Harry F. Cunningham, architect, 1707 I Street, N. W., submitted a sketch for a World War memorial to be placed in a memorial room situated in the tower of the Nebraska State Capitol Building. Mr. Cunningham submitted the following description with his design:

> The Nebraska War Memorial, as indicated by the accompanying photographs of sketches, is conceived more as large "jewelry" than as small architecture, or even sculpture. The Memorial Chamber, in the top of the tower of the Nebraska Capitol--where the Memorial is to be placed--is a very simple, but very rich chamber, done in black and green and gold. There are great Black-and-Gold marble piers in the eight corners, between which the panels are of Verde Antique Marble with Belgian Black Marble borders. In the upper black border, there is a gold inscription setting forth a quotation from Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Speech. Above this there are spaces for eight symbolic Mural Paintings and above these there are eight great windows, with straw-coloured glass set in gilt-bronze members. The colour-scheme and general atmosphere of the room seem to invite a thing of brilliance--a thing, however, of great dignity and refinement.
>
> The sketches, therefore, contemplate a Memorial made of black marble and gilt bronze. In plan, it is octagonal--as the Chamber itself is. There is a lower stage set upon a black marble step--a thing which represents so sacred an Ideal as this War Memorial represents, must be raised somewhat above the plane upon which men walk and mundane things transpire. This lowerstage is stabilised, so to speak, by eight black-and-gold piers. A sloping surface, in black marble, with the edges decorated in carving and gilt, effects the transition from this lower stage to the vertical shaft, which forms the body of the Memorial. This shaft is of black marble and will carry the six hundred (more or less) names of the Nebraskans who died in the World War. The upper portion of this shaft is designed to carry

a quotation from the famous Funeral Oration of Pericles. The crown is built up in several stages, all in gilt bronze, and carries successive bands of ornament developed from the Olive branch, the Sunflower, Corn and Wheat. These ornamental motifs are appropriate to the Memorial as such and to a Nebraska Memorial particularly. The whole culminates in an octagonal urn-form in black marble, with applique figures in gilt bronze representing eight Virtues chosen from among those which inspire Warriors to risk sacrifice. There will be a dim light in the top of the urn-form, which will throw its dim ray up into the dome, the top of which is some seventy feet above the Chamber floor.

Every effort has been made to create a Memorial which is in harmony with the great building which houses it. The designer of the Memorial happens to have designed the room in which it will be placed, when--as a member of the late Goodhue Associates--he had charge of the continuation of the Nebraska Capitol after Mr. Goodhue's death. In his work on the Capitol itself, in this Chamber, and on the Memorial, he has striven to "carry on" in the spirit of the great Master--Bertram Goodhue--whose devoted disciple he has earnestly endeavoured to be.

As stated by Mr. Cunningham, the memorial will be octagonal in shape and 49 feet high. Mr. Cunningham desired to know from the Commission of Fine Arts whether this is a suitable design for a memorial to be placed in the building. The design received the special attention of Mr. Lawrie, who had done the sculpture for the Nebraska State Capitol and was familiar with the place although he said he had not been in this memorial room. Mr. Lawrie regarded the memorial as being rather picturesque but instead of having figures placed on it in the applique style he would rather have them carved on the memorial in the same manner as the ornamentation of the old Egyptian Monuments and then gilded.

The Commission after consideration decided that this is an appropriate memorial for the room and that this preliminary design is excellent in conception and spirit. The Commission felt that further study should be given to it, however. Mr. Cunningham said this would be done and the Commission would be consulted further in the matter. (Exhibit D)

8. AGRICULTURE EXPERIMENT FARM, BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND: Dr. W. E. Cotton of the Department of Agriculture and Mr. Delos Smith, consulting architect, appeared before the Commission with further designs for the Department of Agriculture Experiment Farm at Beltsville, Maryland. Dr. Cotton was particularly concerned as to the location of the house for the Superintendent of the Animal Research Laboratory and said in his opinion it should be near the laboratory building to facilitate the handling of experiments. The Commission felt that this is a matter which should be decided by the Secretary of Agriculture and his staff in consultation with Mr. A. D. Taylor, consulting landscape architect for the Beltsville project.

The Secretary presented a letter and photograph location map from Dr. Sheets, Chief of the Division of Animal Husbandry of the Department of Agriculture; the map shows the general plan of development at Beltsville. Mr. Smith said this is the best location plan of the project that has as yet been made.

Mr. Smith submitted designs for the entomological group and a design and model for the farm engineering building. As to this the Commission decided that the tower be made octagonal. Mr. Smith also submitted a design for the restoration of the old Snowden Mansion. It had been proposed to restore it as a home for the Secretary of Agriculture but they have heard that the Secretary is opposed to living so far from the city and, therefore, the mansion is to be the Superintendent's headquarters. The mansion was built in 1780 for the Snowden family, which operated one of the first iron foundries in this part of the country.

Mr. Moore asked about the civic center and Mr. Smith said a log cabin is being built, the design of which is not objectionable. A head-house and

greenhouse have been designed. These are typical greenhouses and are in the main propagating houses. In the head-house there will be a few offices and a laboratory.

Mr. Smith explained the origin of the small lakes. He said the rust colored soil is iron bearing and in former days it was smelted, the Snowdens taking out so much ore that the depressions left constitute lakes, of which there are about a half dozen.

Mr. Smith also said that the Agriculture Department is willing to devote a small sum to memorialize the early beginnings of agriculture engineering. Galileo predicted crops from astronomical observations so may be considered as connected with agricultural engineering; therefore, he is to have a small memorial.

All the designs were regarded as being well done and the Commission approved them. (Exhibit E)

9. CHENEAU, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE BUILDING: The Secretary stated that Mr. J. H. de Sibour had requested the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to whether a sample of cheneau placed on the Public Health Service Building was satisfactory. The Commission inspected this and felt that the sample shown was not satisfactory. However, the Commission decided that it is highly desirable to have a cheneau on the building but suggested that the cheneau be simpler in design with more emphasis on its important members. (Exhibit F)

10. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT, COLUMBIA ISLAND PLAZA: The Secretary reported that an allotment of $139,500 has been made by the Public Works Administration (Exhibit G) for the completion of the memorial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, including ornamental gates, sidewalks, small

planting, etc. and work on the main fountain and minor sculpture. Also $6,000 of the above sum has been made available for the purchase and planting of 200 white oak trees leading from the memorial bridge to the main entrance.

Plans for carrying out this project have been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. The Chairman called attention to the importance now of having a plan for Columbia Island Plaza. Mr. Clarke said the joint committee, consisting of Professor Hubbard, landscape architect of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Mr. Swartwout and himself have come to a general agreement as to the character of the plan and he would be glad to see to it that the design is made, if the National Park Service is willing to prepare it. Mr. Thomas C. Vint, Chief architect of the National Park Service, was present and said his office would make the necessary arrangements for this and submit the design to the Commission of Fine Arts.

The National Park Service advised that they wish to expedite the work for the memorial avenue. Accordingly after consulting Mr. Clarke, the Chairman sent a memorandum to the Director of the National Park Service on the subject. (Exhibit G-1)

11. REMODELING SOUTH ENTRANCE OF OLD PATENT OFFICE BUILDING: Under date of March 8, 1934, a report was received from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Exhibit H) together with a blue print and design by Mr. William L. Partridge, consulting architect, for remodeling the south entrance of the old Patent Office building in order to permit the widening of F Street between 7th and 9th Streets, N. W.

The Commission considered the designs and approved scheme A, which provides for the maximum widening possible, setting back the curb 23 feet and

making the present street car tracks central in the pavement. This would provide a sidewalk 17 feet wide and a total width of 25 feet immediately in front of the new south entrance. Scheme A makes it possible to widen F Street 32 feet by eliminating all the steps at the south entrance and bringing the south entrance wall directly down from the columns of the pediment. In this work consideration is to be given to setting the new south wall far enough in front of the columns to clear the old footings which are now above the proposed entrance level.

12. FRANKLIN PARK LANDSCAPE PLAN: Mr. Thomas C. Vint, Chief architect of the National Park Service, submitted a preliminary landscape plan for Franklin Park at 14th and K Streets, N. W. The grounds are in very bad shape. It is proposed in the new plan to bring the Commodore Barry Monument into proper relationship with the park. The matter was referred to Mr. Clarke for study of details in connection with the design.

13. RELOCATION OF THE STATUE OF JOSEPH HENRY: The National Park Service, which is carrying out the Mall Plan, advised that it is necessary to relocate the statue of Joseph Henry, first secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, which is in front of that building. The Commission interposed no objection to relocation of the statue somewhere else near the building. A specific location is to be decided later in consultation with the officials of the Smithsonian Institution.

14. UNION SQUARE: Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, Consulting Landscape Architect for the development of Union Square, submitted a preliminary plan together with a report on the subject (Exhibit I), which he read before the Commission.

The Commission considered the report with interest and thereupon inspected the drawing. The Commission noted that it is not proposed to extend Second Street through Union Square, which they thought would be

very much in the interest of the plan to develop the square. The Commission agreed that the Mall drives should end at Third Street and that the area from Third to First Streets should be treated as the head of the Mall.

The Commission regarded it essential that the street car tracks along First Street, between Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues, be removed and that street-car traffic be diverted from Pennsylvania Avenue south along Independence Avenue (formerly B Street South) and finally eastward to Capitol Hill.

The Commission recognized the serious nature of the problems connected with the treatment of Union Square. Mr. Clarke and Mr. S wartwout felt that the planting shown in the plan presented by Mr. Olmsted is treated too informally; that the plan is not sufficiently monumental. The general character of the treatment of the Plaza of the 1901 plan, designed by Mr. McKim, seems to be more appropriate.

Mr. Olmsted said he wished to make a model of Union Square on a 1/16" scale, and desired the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts so as to be certain that he was proceeding along right lines.

The Commission visited Union Square in the afternoon, at which time their views as above stated were confirmed.

15. MURAL DECORATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CAFETERIA: Early in the afternoon the Commission inspected the locations proposed for the mural decorations in the cafeteria of the Department of Commerce Building. The cafeteria is in the basement of the building and extends the full length from 14th to 15th Streets. It is proposed to place the murals in the space between the windows, about 10 feet square on each side of the cafeteria. About 15 paintings can be placed on each side of the room.

16. INSPECTION OF EXHIBITION, PUBLIC WORKS OF ART PROJECT: On the invitation of Hon. L. W. Robert, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Edward Bruce, of the Advisory Committee on Fine Arts of the Public Works of Art Project, the Commission inspected the exhibition in the Corcoran Gallery of Art of the work of artists throughout the United States, which was done in recent months under the Public Works of Art Project. The exhibition is open to the public from April 25th to May 20th.

The Commission found that most all the rooms of the second floor of the gallery had been given over to the exhibition, which comprised several hundred paintings. The Commission regarded a few of the paintings very good, but the majority of them were mediocre in character. It was not an exhibition of paintings by the best artists of the United States. The Commission, concluded, however, that as a relief project for some 3,000 unemployed artists this P. W. A. project had served its purpose.

17. INSPECTION OF U. S. SUPREME COURT BUILDING: At the invitation of Mr. Cass Gilbert, architect, and Mr. T. I. Coe, superintendent of construction, of the U. S. Supreme Court Building, the Commission visited the building in the afternoon. Mr. Coe accompanied the Commission. The exterior of the building was found to be fairly complete. The sculpture of the pediments is now being carved. The interior of the building, however, will require fully a year for completion. So far little more than the stone work has been done. The exterior of the building is of Vermont marble while the interior is mainly of Alabama marble. The Commission realized that when completed this will be a very fine building. The Supreme Court Chamber, is on the first floor and will be 60 feet square. On the first floor will also be the suites of the

Associate Justices and their libraries. On the second floor will be a great law library and on the third floor will be a reading room and conference room for the attorneys.

The attention of Mr. Coe was brought to the suggestion that East Capitol Street between First and Second Streets be widened to conform to the new plan that has been adopted by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts for widening East Capitol Street. Mr. Coe said he would bring the matter to the attention of Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol.

The Commission adjourned at 6:30 p. m.

C O P Y

April 24, 1934.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 23, 1934, inspected the photograph of the model for the pediment facing Pennsylvania Avenue of the Archives Building by Mr. A. A. Weinman, sculptor, and approved the model.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Louis Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

April 24, 1934.

Dear Dr. Coleman:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 23, 1934, had before them a photograph of the model for the statue of George Rogers Clark by Hermon A. MacNeil to be placed in the memorial building at Vincennes. The matter received the particular attention of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission. The Commission of Fine Arts approved the model.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Dr. C. B. Coleman,
334 State House,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Engineer Department
Surveyor, D. C.

April 16, 1934.

E. D. 236034/6. Circle at Nebraska and Massachusetts Avenues.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I have to advise you that the dedication for the circle at Nebraska and Massachusetts Avenues, involving the properties of the American and Harvard Universities, has been accepted by the Commissioners, and the plats of dedication are recorded in Book 99, pages 94 and 95, of the records of this office.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. A. Dent,

Surveyor, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

April 24, 1934.

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 23, 1934, were interested in seeing your design for a World War memorial to be erected by the State of Nebraska in the tower of the State Capitol Building. Mr. Lee Lawrie, the sculptor member of this Commission, was conversant with the Capitol Building, on which he had worked with Mr. Goodhue, as he had also worked during many years in connection with other buildings. From his understanding of and sympathy with the architect the Commission felt Mr. Lawrie's advice was especially valuable.

The Commission felt that the place selected was appropriate and your preliminary design was excellent in conception and spirit. In addition the Commission agreed with you that further study would result in changes of detail, which could be discussed as the work progressed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. Harry F. Cunningham,
1707 I Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

April 26, 1934.

Dear Dr. Sheets:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 23, 1934, examined with interest the photographic map of the proposed plan of development of the United States Experimental Farm at Beltsville, Md.

Dr. Cotton was present at the meeting and was concerned about the location of the Superintendent's house. The Commission feel that the question of location is primarily an administrative problem to be settled by the Department of Agriculture, with the advice of Mr. Taylor, the consulting landscape architect.

The Commission considered a number of additional designs submitted by Mr. Delos Smith, consulting architect. In particular, these were for the entomological group and the building for farm engineering, of which he submitted a model together with a design. The Commission favored the design shown by the model.

The Commission were particularly pleased with Mr. Smith's design for the restoration of the old Snowden mansion, and expressed the hope that it might be carried out.

The Commission approved all of these designs. Suggestions as to matters of detail were made to Mr. Smith.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Dr. E. W. Sheets, Chief,
Division of Animal Husbandry,
Bureau of Animal Industry,
Department of Agriculture.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

April 25, 1934.

Dear Mr. deSibour:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 23, 1934, inspected the sample of the cheneau you placed on the Public Health Service Building.

The Commission think it highly desirable to have a cheneau on the building, but suggest that a cheneau simpler in design, with more emphasis on important members of it. The Commission looked at the cheneau on the National Academy of Sciences Building and regard that one also as too small in design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. J. H. deSibour, Architect,

1707 Connecticut Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

- COPY -

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

April 18, 1934.

Mr. Arno B. Cammerer,

Director, National Park Service.

My dear Mr. Cammerer:

In accordance with the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, an allotment of $139,500 has been made to the Interior Department, National Park Service (Physical Improvements), for the completion of the Memorial Entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery.

A list of the approved projects showing the amount allotted for each is attached.

A request is being forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer $139,500 to your credit for the performance of these works.

By direction of the Secretary:

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) E. K. BURLEW
Administrative Assistant
and Budget Officer.

Enclosure

CC: Mr. Finnan
Taylor
Peterson
Tolson
Bilkert
Tillett
Parker
Graham
LaCovey
Bailey

EXHIBIT G

copy

INTERIOR

National Park Service
(Physical Improvements)

State	City Locality	Character of Work	Total Estimated Cost to Complete	Project Number
Virginia	Arlington	For the completion of the Memorial Entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery; including ornamental gates, fences, sidewalks, steps, copings, etc; and including top soiling, fine grading, small planting, etc., of the vicinity; also including work on the main fountain and minor sculpture	$133,500	F.P. 564
"	"	For the purchase and planting of 200 good-size oak trees leading from bridge to entrance.	6,000	F.P. 565
			$139,500	

C O P Y

April 28, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. A. B. Cammerer,
Director, National Park Service.

The Commission of Fine Arts has received by reference from your office a copy of the letter addressed to you by the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, dated April 18, 1934, saying that $139,500 has been allotted to the Interior Department, National Park Service, for the completion of the Memorial Entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery.

A memorandum of the approved project, showing the amount for the various items is attached. The sum of $133,500 is allotted for the completion of the Memorial Entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery, including ornamental gates, fences, sidewalks, steps, copings, etc.; and including top soiling, fine grading, small planting, etc., of the vicinity; also including work on the main fountain and minor sculpture. $6,000 is allotted for the purchase and planting of 200 good-sized oak trees leading from the Memorial Bridge to the Entrance to Arlington Cemetery.

On taking up this matter with Major Gilmore D. Clarke, Landscape Architect member of the Commission of Fine Arts, Mr. Clarke advises that the present time is propitious for the purchase and planting of the 200 white oak trees from nursery stock, which stock will bear replanting. These trees should be about 15 feet high with a caliper of about 3½ inches, and should be uniform in size.

EXHIBIT G-1

Between the sidewalk and the trees the plan for the Memorial Avenue calls for holly hedge, which is essential to the appearance of the whole project and will be especially desirable while the trees are small. This hedge may be from 5 to 6 feet in height and should be set in a trench with the proper soil conditions attended to.

The white oak trees should be set in prepared soil 10 feet square and 3 feet deep. This will conduce to rapid growth.

The color and character of the sidewalk should be carefully looked after so as to give an attractive surface and not the ordinary hard concrete surface. We will be pleased to consider this matter in particular when the time comes. There is a dip in the road leading from the Cemetery which is most unfortunate and if possible should be corrected.

The fountain should be finished so as to be a fountain but elaborate sculpture may well be postponed and the display of water made the principal thing at the present time. This will effect a saving of about $25,000 and will allow for the holly hedge--coming under small planting of the memorandum.

The plans call for 40 bronze light standards, but I presume these will have to be postponed for the present. Only when the Entrance is lighted it should be with proper standards and not with standards secured from the city temporarily, as the case with the Bridge. When the standards for the Entrance are contracted for, the standards on the Bridge should be changed to conform to them.

This Memorandum is sent at your request.

(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

MR. FREDERIC A. DELANO
OF WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAIRMAN
LT. COL. U. S. GRANT, 3D
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC PARKS
VICE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
HON. ARTHUR CAPPER
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES SENATE
HON. MARY T. NORTON
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAJOR GENERAL LYTLE BROWN
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MAJ. JOHN C. GOTWALS
ENGINEER COMMISSIONER, D. C.
MR. HORACE M. ALBRIGHT
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MR. ROBERT Y. STUART
CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE
MR. FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED
OF BROOKLINE, MASS.
MR. JESSE C. NICHOLS
OF KANSAS CITY, MO.
MR. WILLIAM A. DELANO
OF NEW YORK, N.Y.

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAR 1934

NAVY BUILDING,
WASHINGTON, D. C. March 8, 1934.

MEMORANDUM for Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts,
Room 3074 Navy Building.

Subject: Patent Office Remodeling and Widening of F Street.

Supplementing the perspectives drawn by Mr. Partridge, showing the two methods of remodeling the south entrance to the Patent Office Building in order to permit the widening of F Street, I transmit herewith a complete set of drawings as follows:

1. Perspective, file 21-48.
2. " " 21-49.
3. Blue print, Scheme A, file 21-52.
4. " " " B, " 21-53.
5. " " showing present steps, file 21-54.
6. " " " proposed new entrance, file 21-55.
7. " " " old foundations, file 21-56.
8. " " Scheme B, minimum change, file 21-57.

Scheme A, you will note, provides for the maximum widening possible, setting back the curb 23 feet, making the present car tracks central in the pavement cross-section. This would provide a sidewalk 17 feet wide, and with a total width of 25 feet immediately in front of the new south entrance.

Scheme B would provide for setting the present curb back 12½ feet, giving a total width of pavement north of the north car rail of 22 feet and a sidewalk 15 feet wide.

Scheme A has been estimated to cost a total of $105,000, and Scheme B $35,000, these estimates including only the remodeling of the building. To this should be added approximately $20,000 for the cost of street paving, sidewalk, curb, etc. under Scheme A. The District has estimated that the 3½ foot widening, which has been proposed by the Commissioners, would cost $15,000. You will note that so far as the street improvements are concerned, it will cost very little for the extra widening in proportion to the total cost involved. Copy of memorandum on estimates is attached.

The National Capital Park and Planning Commission at its February meeting approved Scheme A with the recommendation that when any intermediate steps are taken to relieve traffic congestion that these be made consistent so far as possible with the ultimate solution shown on Scheme A. This action was taken on the assumption that it might be some time before funds could be

obtained to carry out Scheme A. In the meantime, it might be necessary to make some temporary improvement. The Coordinating Committee, on which District officials are represented, had previously voted in favor of Scheme A but expressed the opinion that unless funds were available for carrying out Scheme A before June 30, 1934, the temporary widening of F Street as proposed by the Commissioners should proceed and recommended the transfer of the necessary parking for the temporary widening in that eventuality.

The Commission in adopting Scheme A considered that it might be possible to reduce the cost of carrying it out by a material amount if it were architecturally feasible to set the new south wall far enough in front of the columns to clear the old footings which are now above the proposed entrance level.

John Nolen, Jr.

JN/md
Enclosures 9.

John Nolen, Jr.
Director of Planning.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,
BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
EASTERN DIVISION, BRANCH OF ENGINEERING
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF DIVISION

February 15, 1934.

Memorandum for Mr. Partridge:

Subject: Patent Office Estimates.

In accordance with your recent request a rough estimate has been made of the cost of making certain changes in connection with the F Street entrance to the Patent Office Building. Without definite details the approximate figures only are possible and in making the following estimates full allowance has been made for design and for such contingencies as may arise in a scheme where full information is not available.

Our estimate for remodeling the south front of the Patent Office in accordance with Scheme "A" is $105,000. Our estimate for remodeling in accordance with Scheme "B" is $35,000. These schemes are based on using new granite for the entire F Street face, and might be somewhat reduced if it is possible to re-use some of the existing granite.

If we can be of further service to you in connection with this please let me know.

CAP:F

Charles A. Peters, Jr.

cc - Peters

STATEMENT IN REGARD TO GENERAL PLAN FOR UNION SQUARE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

By Frederick Law Olmsted

April 19, 1934.

Any plan for Union Square, that is to say for the old Botanic Garden and its vicinity, must as the first consideration recognize that this area embodies one unit of a much larger whole, extending from the Capitol to the Washington Monument and on to the Lincoln Memorial; and that this Union Square unit should be so treated as to fit happily into its place in that larger whole, intimately related to the Capitol Grounds on the one hand and to the Mall on the other.

Subject to that controlling requirement the most fundamental points to be determined about the Union Square unit are what changes and adjustments, if any, should be made in the adjacent units of the plan of Washington in relation to the shape, size and general character to be adopted for the Union Square unit. The adjacent units chiefly to be considered are the Capitol Grounds and its recent extensions, and Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues.

In the preliminary studies for the revision of this part of the general plan of Washington prepared by the Commission of 1901, rather radical changes in the western boundary of the Capitol Grounds and in the neighboring streets were suggested. These studies assumed the straightening of First Street, cutting back into the Capitol Grounds over 100 feet, the opening through of Second Street across the Botanic Garden area, the obliteration of the Peace Monument and Garfield Monument Circles, and the deflection of Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues between First and Second Streets to an east-west direction, thus forming a substantially rectangular new unit; referred to in the report as "Union Square". (See Diagram 1).

This portion of the plan of 1901 received less mature and deliberate study by the Commission as a whole than the portions of the central composition further west, and was embodied in the report under pressure of time as a tentative solution in spite of expressed doubts within the Commission as to some of its features. My further study of the problem, especially since I have been called upon to prepare definitive plans for Union Square, has tended to reenforce these doubts, as will be discussed below.

In the mean time additional fixed points have been established by the erection of the Grant and Meade Monuments; and these deserve a brief explanation. The 1901 study for Union Square suggested as the central feature thereof a group of three monuments, to Grant, Sheridan and Sherman--hence the name Union Square. When

Congress later provided for a monument to General Grant, the winning design in the competition was one which had been conceived for another location and was about as long as the entire group of three monuments for Union Square shown on the studies of 1901. It was placed where that group had been shown, on the axis from the Capitol to the Washington Monument and opposite the middle of the blocks between Second Street and the straight part of First Street. Later a monument to General Meade was authorized by Congress, and in order to associate it with the Grant Memorial, thus carrying out the spirit of the original "Union Square" suggestion of the Commission of 1901, it also was placed within the old Botanic Garden. The position chosen for it, on the advice of former members of the Commission of 1901, was the northern one of two sites symmetrical about the main axis of the Mall and opposite the middle of the blocks between Second and Third Streets, in what had been shown on the studies of 1901 as a unit of the Mall separate from but adjoining and closely related to the suggested "Union Square". This decision involved an extension of the idea which gave rise to the name "Union Square" so as to include the whole area from the Grant Monument to Third Street, and points toward the importance, as a matter of design, of treating this whole area in a much more unified way than in the studies of 1901, in which Second S treet was proposed to be cut through and the block west of it was associated much more closely with the Mall beyond than with the then suggested rectangle of "Union Square" east of Second Street.

Reverting to the doubts about some features of the 1901 studies for Union Square, these related chiefly to the suggested curtailment of the Capitol Grounds by the straightening of First Street, and to the introduction of a rather high terrace wall rising from the east side of the relocated First Street and of a series of water basins and fountains within the Capitol Grounds.

There is a reference in the report of 1901 to the agreeable simplicity of outline of the Capitol Grounds as shown on Latrobe's plan of 1803, ending squarely on the straight line of First Street; and criticism of the "curved projection" subsequently added. A review of the history of the Capitol Grounds throws a somewhat different light on this question and tends to support the conclusion which I have reached that it would be unwise radically to curtail the Capitol Grounds on the west as suggested in the studies of 1901, or to interrupt the direct lines of Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues west of First Street.

A summary of this review is worth recording, if only by way of parenthesis.

"L'Enfant's original plan of 1791, despite its small scale and its damaged condition, makes it clear that the park or 'public walk' on the west side of the site for the 'Congress House' is not terminated on the west by a straight north and south boundary, either on the line of First Street or elsewhere. (See Diagram 2). Its northwest and southwest corners are at Second and B Streets, but between Pennsylvania Avenue and Maryland Avenue the Capitol grounds were evidently designed to project further westward. This projection marks the importance of those two great avenues by having their ends 'cut square', so to speak, at right angles to their own direction, instead of being cut off diagonally to their own direction by a north-south street of secondary importance. The same principle was further recognized in L'Enfant's plan by marks, probably representing pylons or other monumental structures, within his proposed public grounds west of the 'Congress House', arranged in pairs axially related to Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues and marking a curved line almost identical in location with the present curved portion of First Street.

"In practically all of the subsequent plans for the Capitol Grounds which I have examined, including Latrobe's plan of 1803, there are shown curved lines, either at the western boundary of the Capitol Grounds or within them or both, drawn exactly or very nearly normal to the lines of these two great converging avenues, and serving to receive them square with their own direction. (Diagrams 3 to 5).

"My guess is that the extension of First Street straight across the Capitol axis as the western boundary of its grounds in Latrobe's plan of 1803 was due not to any preference by him for such a form but to the niggardly 'trimming' policy then being followed by the public authorities, under which policy L'Enfant's well-planned and liberal allowance of public grounds on the west side of the Capitol site was progressively curtailed by alienation to private landowners; back to the line of First Street in the 1803 plan, and later by cutting through A Street North and A Street South and alienating practically all the land beyond those narrow limits. When the plans for the present Capitol Building were drawn by Walter in the 1850's the structure filled the remaining restricted Capitol Grounds from edge to edge, and it became absolutely essential to begin the process of repurchasing the alienated land. (Diagram 6)

"It was Walter who at that time drew the curving line of First Street that now marks the western boundary of the Capitol Grounds, doubtless because he recognized, as his predecessors had done, the value of receiving three great converging vistas against an arc drawn normal to all of them, a principle of design

entirely familiar and entirely tenable even though not necessarily controlling. As above stated, this curving line is almost identical in position and radius with one which was marked by L'Enfant on his original plan of 1791 within the still more ample grounds which he proposed to reserve as a setting for the 'Congress House'.

"Some time after the Civil War the Peace Monument was placed just outside of this line on the axis of Pennsylvania Avenue, and the small circles surrounding it and the corresponding point on the axis of Maryland Avenue cut into the large simple arc which Walter had drawn.

"My father was called upon to design the treatment of the Capitol Grounds during the 1870's and 1880's and he accepted Walter's curving line on the west as satisfactory. I do not know what his attitude was in regard to the two 'scallops' in that line at Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues; but personally I am inclined to class them with certain other architectural details (characteristic of what is rightly called in Glenn Brown's History of the United States Capitol 'an unfortunate period in our architectural history') which did not measure up to the prevailing dignity and impressiveness of my father's general design.

"At all events the western boundary of the Capitol Grounds had thus been restored to a form recalling that of L'Enfant's original plan, although one block further east than shown by him. (Diagram 7).

"The present Commission for Enlarging the Capitol Grounds, in addition to the new land acquired toward the Union Station, is now at last re-acquiring for the Government the land between B Street and Pennsylvania Avenue east of First Street which L'Enfant had the foresight to reserve in 1791."

Entirely apart from the above historical considerations a careful examination of the outlook from the west front of the Capitol, bearing in mind the ultimate removal of the encumbrance of temporary buildings from the vista toward the Washington Monument, carries a conviction that the length of the unbroken foreground unit of that vista, within the present Capitol Grounds and free from the interrupting cross lines of any roadway, is even now none too long and that any shortening of it as in the studies of 1901 would be distinctly unfortunate.

Furthermore, in looking toward the Capitol from distant points on Pennsylvania Avenue, the place at which the unbroken street

vista terminates, against the mass of trees just where the ground begins to rise toward the dome, seems very satisfactory; and the accenting of that spot by the Peace Monument (so distant that its unfortunate details are imperceptible) is good. To shorten that street vista, to weaken it by debouching into a wide open space much further west than First Street, or to introduce an accent point much further west than the Peace Monument, would reduce its simple impressiveness.

If the above conclusions are acceptable, the Union Square problem is controlled by the following conditions:

1. The lines of Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues are to be retained without substantial change.

2. Third Street is to be widened to correspond with the width between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues.

3. The area of the old Botanic Garden is to be treated as a unit, unbroken by any extension across it of Second Street; for which no traffic need now exists or is in the opinion of the Planning Commission likely to arise.

4. Within this unit, on the central axis from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, the treatment must recognize and form an integral part of that great vista.

5. Because of the great length from north to south of the Grant Monument (greater than the width of the central greensward of the Mall west of Third Street) the open space upon which this monument immediately fronts should be correspondingly wider, constituting a local expansion of the axial open ground in scale with the monument. This treatment would also agreeably differentiate the Union Square unit from the Mall and from the Capitol Grounds, and prepare the eye for the transition from the uniform width of the vista on the Mall to the treatment on the Capitol Grounds, where the thinner lines of flanking trees, converging in accord with the lines of Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues, narrow the central vista but leave the observer conscious that the central open space thus narrowed is here only a part of the much wider unit of the Capitol Grounds.

6. The existing fine large trees in the old Botanic Garden north and south of the requisite central open space should be preserved, and should be reenforced, where the mass of foliage is weak, by additional trees, obtainable in part by moving to those positions good trees which must be removed from the central open space.

The accompanying general plan presents in outline a treatment based on the above conditions. It shows a central open space free from trees which, in the western part of the area where the Meade Monument stands, is of the same width as in the Mall beyond Third Street, but which widens in front of the Grant Monument so as to extend northward as far as the existing large trees bordering the present open lawn and southward a corresponding distance to other existing large trees. Within this central open space is shown a long axial panel of turf flanked by two broad walks and in the western portion, opposite the Meade Monument, by two panels of planting of very limited height. Whether the area around the Meade Monument and the corresponding space on the opposite side should be planted with trees as densely as indicated on the plan or treated more openly with large specimen trees near its margin, especially on the corners, requires further study with the aid of a model which is now being made. It may prove desirable to provide in the plans for a reflecting basin in the central panel at some future time, but it is not essential and the available funds will not permit it at present.

The very close proximity of First Street to the back of the Grant Monument is admittedly unfortunate. And a disturbing feature in all near views of that monument from the westward is the restless and incongruous appearance of the tops of vehicles moving back and forth on First Street and plainly visible above the long line of the monument base. The best means of meeting these difficulties appears to be the planting of two blocks or panels of clipped shrubs, of just sufficient height, behind the low parts of the base and between it and First Street. The monument is too long to be appreciated as a whole from so short a distance as First Street, and the arrangement proposed would permit separate effective views from the street of the central figure and of each of the sculptural groups at the two ends.

It should be noted that the plan for Union Square implies a very minor but quite essential change of detail on the Capitol Grounds: namely, the elimination of the little architectural accent in the middle of the boundary wall along First Street, which is several feet out of line with the axis from the Capitol through the Grant Monument to the Washington Monument and the moving to some other location of the tall box-bushes back of it.

Instructions have been prepared for the root-pruning and other preparation of all trees within the central open space which it seems practicable and expedient to move, so that they can be transferred at the proper season with a minimum of risk. All of the trees which are known to have special historic interest, such as the memorial trees, and which cannot remain indefinitely in their present locations, it is proposed to move, except one small tree in such bad condition that it could hardly be expected

to survive even if left undisturbed (noted as the Garfield Tree) and one very handsome oak (noted as the Stewart Tree) which is so close to the Grant Monument and has its roots so involved with the foundations thereof and is so large that it would be almost impossible to move it successfully without wrecking and reconstructing a considerable part of the monument. In addition to the Memorial Trees all other trees within the central open space which are in condition and of a size and kind to be worth moving should now be prepared for moving at the proper season.

Approval is now requested for the six numbered conditions which have been assumed as controlling the plans, for the outlines of the central open space so that preparations for moving the good trees from within it can proceed promptly, and for the general plan now presented subject to approval of detailed drawings, by representatives of the Commission.